

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An L-Lysine-producing bacterium ~~baeteria~~ of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising:

- a) an overexpressed wild type *pyc* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding pyruvate carboxylase, wherein overexpression of said *pyc* gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *pyc* gene, and
- b) an overexpressed wild type *dapA* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding dihydrodipicolinate synthase, wherein overexpression of said *dapA* gene is achieved by using a *dapA* promotor selected from the group consisting of: the *dapA* promotor comprising the MC20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 and the *dapA* promotor comprising the MA16 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and

~~wherein over-expression of said *pyc* gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said *pyc* gene~~

~~wherein overexpression of said *dapA* gene is achieved by using a *dapA* promotor selected from the group consisting of: the *dapA* promotor comprising the MC20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 and the *dapA* promotor comprising the MA20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 and~~

whereby said overexpression of said wild type *pyc* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* or said wild type *dapA* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* gives a pyruvate carboxylase activity or dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity above the level of that found in a wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The bacterium ~~Bacteria~~ of claim 1, in which a *lysE* gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding the lysine export carrier is overexpressed, wherein overexpression of said ~~LysE~~ gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said gene ~~LysE-genes~~.

Claims 4-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) An *Escherichia coli* K-12 strain DH5 α /pEC7lysEpyc, deposited as DSM12872.

Claims 17-21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6.

Claims 24-26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The bacterium *Bacteria* of claim 1 further comprising an overexpressed lysC gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding aspartate kinase, wherein said gene is expressed at a level that is higher than its expression level in wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The bacterium *Bacteria* of claim 27, wherein said aspartate kinase is resistant to inhibition by lysine and/or threonine.

Claim 29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) An L-Lysine-producing bacterium *baacteria* of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising:

- a) an overexpressed wild type pyc gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding pyruvate carboxylase, wherein overexpression of said pyc gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said pyc gene,
- b) an overexpressed wild type dapA gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding dihydrodipicolinate synthase, wherein overexpression of said dapA gene is achieved by using a dapA promotor selected from the group consisting of: the dapA promotor comprising the MC20 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 and the dapA promotor comprising the MA16 mutation as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and
- c) an overexpressed wild type lysE gene of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* encoding a lysine export carrier, wherein overexpression of said lysE gene is achieved by increasing the copy number of said lysE gene, and
wherein the overexpressed genes are expressed at levels that are higher than their respective expression levels in wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Inventor(s): KREUTZER *et al.*
Application No.: 09/810,521
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0278416

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The bacterium ~~Bacteria~~ of claim 30 further comprising an overexpressed lysC gene of Corynebacterium glutamicum encoding aspartate kinase.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) The bacterium ~~Bacteria~~ of claim 31, wherein said overexpressed aspartate kinase is resistant to inhibition by lysine and/or threonine.